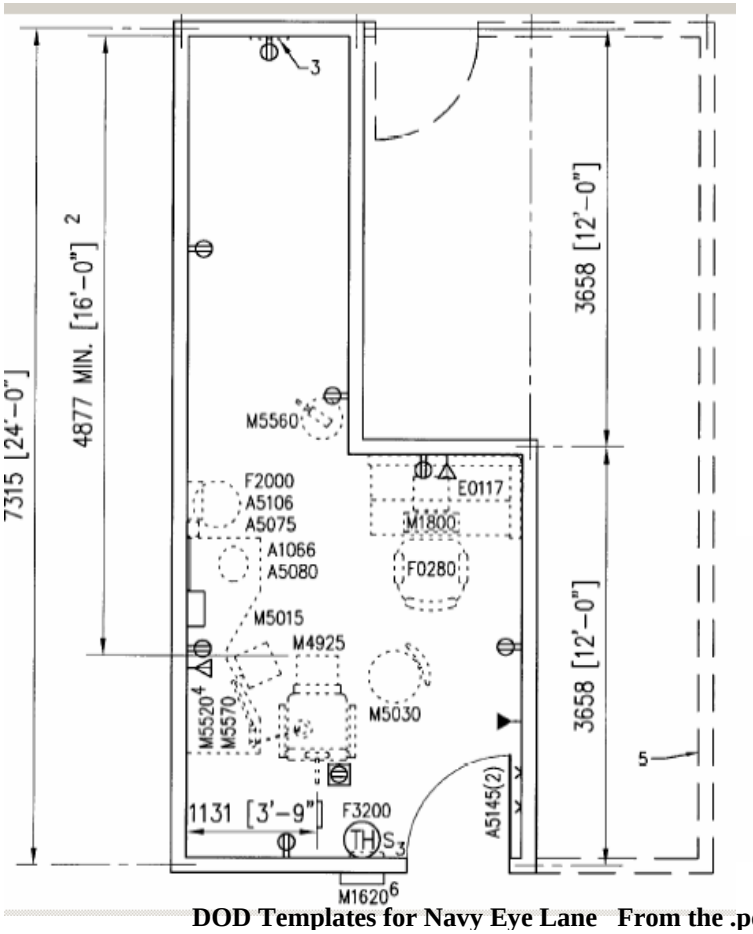
After Action Report- Optometry clinic- BMC Mayport

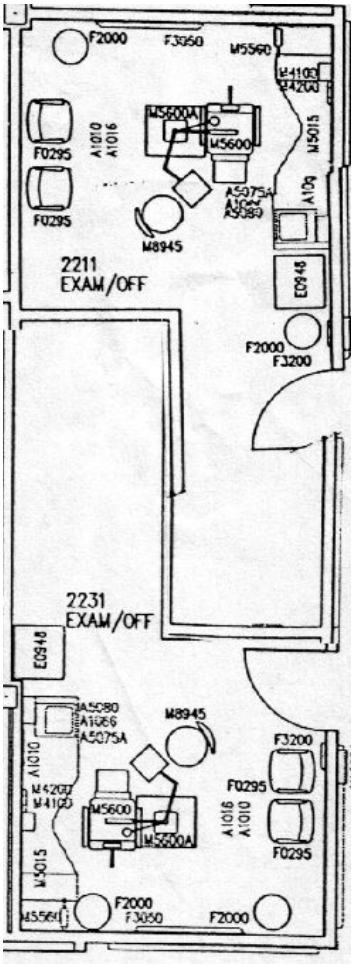


DOD Templates for Navy Eye Lane From the .pdf- Eye Lane – Navy (EYEL3) 3.13.02

The DOD Template for a Navy eye lane is used in the construction of new health care facilities across the country. The template for a Navy eye lane is designed with a desk and optometry equipment (slit lamp biomicroscope, keratometer and refractor) on the patent's left side. This is the standard arrangement used by all eye care professionals while in training.

It is easily seen that the designers intended to use an integrated care delivery system like the Topcon Omni 1. A system like this with equipment and a desk all in one package creates an efficient environment for optometric exams, with easy access to both equipment and patient.

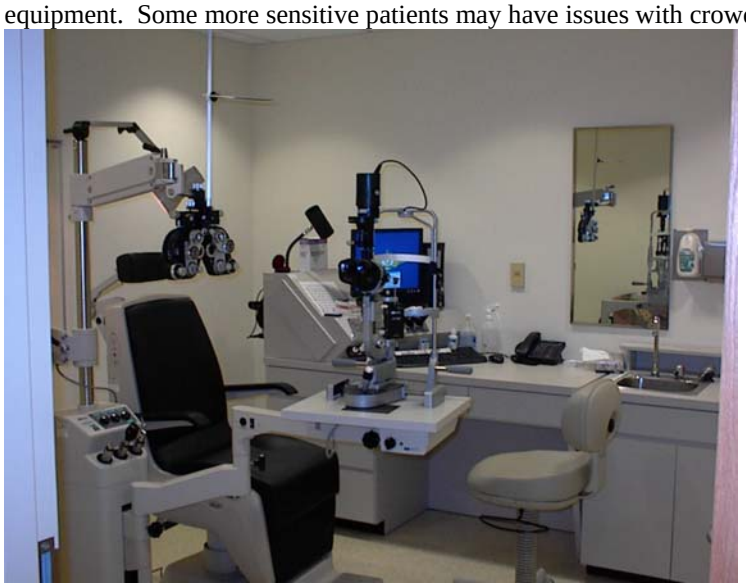
The Optometry clinic in BMC Mayport was designed from the DOD template, but with one major change. The equipment stand was moved from the patient's left, to the patient's right side. This is analogous to moving the position of the gas pedal in a car from under the right foot to under the left foot. While drivers (or doctors) can adapt to the change in habit pattern, it does get in the way when changing cars (or duty stations). Good and consistent habit patterns are the key to avoiding mishaps both in vehicles and in medical practice.



Mayport Eye Lanes As Designed

To the left are optometry exam rooms as designed for BMC Mayport- note the addition of an equipment stand and that it is on the opposite side of the patient. Also note how little room there is to access the desk.

Having a desk on one side of the chair and the stand on the other can give some patients the feeling of being "boxed in" and "crowded" by all the equipment. Some more sensitive patients may have issues with crowding.



Exam lane viewed from door

These issues were raised in July 2003- before any equipment purchases were made- but were dismissed by the senior MCLO.

Instead of ordering an integrated system, refracting desks from COW industries were ordered and installed. As can be seen, the COW desks do not have the convenient indent in the desk top- they are rectangular and move the position of the patient chair to a position far enough toward the center of the room that the patient chair has to be angled to view the screen at the end of the lane.

Exam room layout- BMC Mayport

The senior MCLO stated that one reason for purchasing the COW industries desk was having room light controls integral to the desk. The room lights do not integrate with this desk, and the light controls are not functional. Since the consoles are not operational, the final result is a very expensive cabinet. Power and lighting design of the room should be compatible with the equipment ordered.

One additional reason used to justify the inefficient desks was "that's the way we did it in NAMI, NH Pensacola, and other facilities." Working with this equipment in Pensacola showed me that the COW desk is not very useful- even after telling the senior MCLO that I had worked with the proposed equipment and that it was an inefficient system, the senior MCLO ordered these desks for the clinic. I thought the Navy was supposed to be over repeating the mistakes of the past just because "that's the way we did it."

Reccommendation-

Designers should follow the DOD Optometry/Ophthalmology Floor/equipment plan and use an integrated equipment stand/refraction desk combination- like the Topcon Omni Systems Omni 1 or Omni 3.

The lighting of the room should be compatible with any room light controls- weather they are on the equipment stand or in a refracting desk.

Input from the professionals who will use these facilities for years to come should be taken into account when equipment is purchased and installed.

If the equipment ordering people just won't listen to you- don't be afraid to let your chain of command know that they are proposing inefficient solutions and ignoring practical advice of the subject matter experts.